



Washington, D.C. 20505

28 DEC 1977

Honorable Edward P. Boland
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of November 9, 1977 requesting a briefing on the status of efforts within the Intelligence Community to broaden the dissemination and disclosure of foreign intelligence information.

I share your concern that the Executive and Legislative Branches be kept informed on a timely basis of pertinent information upon which to make sound decisions. Indeed this need to be informed extends to the public in general. We have issued unclassified studies of broad general interest such as the world oil and food productions and various economic studies. I am taking positive steps to expand this effort. For example, the Joint Economic Committee recently published an Agency study entitled "Soviet Economic Problems and Prospects." Your Committee may wish to consider issuing similar Agency studies on subjects of broad interest.

The study on decompartmentation referred to in your letter is still under active study since there are basic problems to be resolved. It must be borne in mind that any programs of broadened dissemination or disclosure involving the declassification of foreign intelligence must be consistent with security requirements to protect intelligence sources and methods or our continued collection capabilities will be seriously impaired.

I look forward to working with the Committee on this most important subject and to that end the Office of Legislative Counsel has been in touch with your staff to arrange an appropriate briefing which, at least initially, will be given to your staff.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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FROM: George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

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9 DEC 1977

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28 DEC 1977

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Attached for your signature is a letter to Chairman Boland responding to his letter of 9 November requesting a briefing on the present status of efforts to break out intelligence from compartmented systems (such as SI and TK) to allow broader dissemination. The Committee is also interested in the general guidelines for releasing classified information.

We understand that the Intelligence Community has been wrestling with this problem for some time. A draft Directive of the Director of Central Intelligence was developed by the DCI Security Committee about a year ago. However, the CIA and NSA did not concur and the matter is still under active study by the Security Committee. As indicated in our letter we have been in touch with the Committee staff as we attempted to get a draft of the DCID which we could transmit.

We now propose to brief Committee staff on the efforts being taken to expand the production of unclassified intelligence studies wherever possible and to explain the problems involved in the removal of sensitive intelligence from systems of compartmentation. The new Executive Order on classification soon to be issued should provide guidance in promoting declassification.

We have informed the Security Committee of Chairman Boland's interest and urged they move to resolve their differences.

George L. Cary